

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information device, comprising:

means for storing an encrypted content ~~that identifies and a license identification~~
~~information;~~

means for receiving grouped device identification information, ~~for receiving~~ [[and]]
key information, ~~for transmitting in response to a transmission of device identification~~
~~information of the information device and upon a determination that fewer than a~~
~~predetermined number of information devices are associated with the grouped device~~
identification information ~~and the license identification information~~, and for receiving [[a]]
~~the license based on corresponding to the license identification information and identifying~~
the grouped device identification information, ~~the grouped device identification information~~
~~grouping and identifying a plurality of information devices;~~ means for storing the license;
means for storing user data including (a) the grouped device identification information, and
(b) the key information, which is commonly provided to the plurality of information devices;
~~wherein the means for storing the user data stores the grouped device identification~~
~~information and the key information in an association together; and~~

means for reading out the license ~~identification information from~~ based on the
encrypted content, for reading out the grouped device identification information [[from]]
based on the license ~~corresponding to the license identification information~~, for reading out
the key information ~~from the user data~~ based on the grouped device identification
information, and for decrypting the encrypted content based on the key information.

2. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 1, wherein the license includes [[the]] license identification information and the grouped device identification information.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 1, further comprising:

means for ~~requesting~~ transmitting the transmission to an information server ~~to register the information device in the information server.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 4, ~~further comprising: means for requesting~~ wherein the means for receiving receives the grouped device identification information and the key information from the information server ~~to register the information device, and to submit the grouped device identification information and the key information to the information device.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 4, ~~further comprising: wherein the~~ means for storing stores the unique device identification information, which uniquely identifies ~~for identifying~~ the information device from ~~others of the plurality of information devices; and means for requesting the information server to register in the information server the unique device identification information.~~

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 6, further comprising:

means for requesting the information server to delete from the information server the ~~unique~~ device identification information.

9. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 1, wherein the ~~plurality of~~ information devices ~~[[is]]~~ are owned by one user.

10. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 1, wherein, the key information corresponds to a device node key allocated to the ~~plurality of~~ information devices, the device node key being a node in a bottom layer among a plurality of node keys in a hierarchical tree structure, wherein each of the plurality of node keys is encrypted and corresponds to a different node in the hierarchical tree structure, which branches off from a top layer to the bottom layer,

the encrypted content is multiply encrypted by each of the plurality of node keys on a path in the hierarchical tree structure from the device node key to a root key, the root key being one of the plurality of node keys in the top layer of the hierarchical tree structure, and

the means for reading out sequentially decrypts each of the plurality of node keys on the path from the device node key to the root key in the hierarchical tree structure, using the key information as the device node key to obtain the root key, and then decrypts the encrypted content by using the root key.

11. (Previously Presented) The information device according to claim 10, wherein, the encrypted content is encrypted by a content key that is encrypted by the root key, and

the means for reading out decrypts the content key by using the root key, and then decrypts the encrypted content using the content key.

12. (Previously Presented) The information device according to claim 1, wherein the encrypted content includes at least one of text data, still image data, moving image data, or voice data.

13. (Currently Amended) An information server that enables a use of an encrypted content, the information server comprising:

means for determining whether fewer than a predetermined number of information devices are associated with grouped device identification information;

~~means for registering one of a plurality of information devices according to a service registration request from the one of the plurality of information devices, for associating grouped device identification information and key information with the plurality of information devices, and for providing the grouped device identification information and the key information to the one of the plurality of information devices, in response to a receipt of device identification information of an information device and upon the means for determining determining that fewer than the predetermined number of information devices are associated with the grouped device identification information, the grouped device identification information identifying the key information grouping and identifying the plurality of information devices, the key information decrypting being associated with an encrypted content; and~~

means for ~~receiving a license request from the one of the plurality of information devices and~~ for transmitting a license ~~to the one of the plurality of information devices, the license request including~~ based on the grouped device identification information and license identification information ~~associated with the encrypted content and corresponding to the license, the license identifying the grouped device identification information and being identified by associated with~~ the encrypted content.

14. (Currently Amended) The information server according to claim 13, further comprising:

means for ~~extracting~~ receiving the device identification information ~~that identifies the one of the plurality of information devices from a device registration request from [[the]] one of the plurality of information devices; [[,]] and~~

means for associating the device identification information with the grouped device identification information, ~~and for registering the device identification information according to the device registration request.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The information server according to claim 14, wherein the means for ~~extracting~~ determining refuses a device registration request from an information device, after a number of the information devices ~~in the plurality of information devices~~ reaches ~~[[a]]~~ the predetermined number.

16. (Currently Amended) The information server according to claim 14, wherein the means for ~~extracting~~ determining deletes the device identification information, which is specified by a device registration deletion request from the one of the plurality of information devices.

17. (Currently Amended) The information server according to claim 13, further comprising:

means ~~for extracting the grouped device identification information from the license request, and~~ for determining whether to charge for transmitting the license from the information server, based on whether the grouped device identification information has been ~~registered~~ provided by the information server.

18. (Currently Amended) The information server according to claim 13, wherein the ~~plurality of~~ information devices ~~[[is]]~~ are owned by one user.

19. (Currently Amended) An information processing system, comprising:
an information server; and
an information device configured to receive a service from the information server through communication lines, wherein,
the information server includes,

means for determining whether fewer than a predetermined number of information devices are associated with grouped device identification information;

~~means for registering the information device according to a service registration request from the information device, for associating grouped device identification information and key information with the information device, and for providing the grouped device identification information and the key information to the information device in~~
response to a receipt of device identification information of an information device and upon
the means for determining determining that fewer than the predetermined number of
information devices are associated with the grouped device identification information, the

grouped device identification information ~~grouping and identifying~~ the key information a plurality of information devices including the information device, the key information ~~decrypting~~ being associated with an encrypted content, and

~~means for receiving a license request from the information device and for transmitting a license to the information device, based on the grouped device identification information~~ the license request including the grouped device identification information and license identification information associated with the encrypted content and corresponding to the license, the license identifying the grouped device identification information and being associated with identified by the encrypted content, and

the information device includes,

means for storing the encrypted content, ~~;~~ ~~means for storing the license,~~ ~~[[;]]~~
~~means for storing the grouped device identification information, and the key information,~~
~~which are provided from the information server; and~~

means for reading out the license ~~identification information from~~ based on the encrypted content, for reading out the grouped device identification information ~~[[from]]~~
based on the license ~~corresponding to the license identification information,~~ for reading out the key information based on the grouped device identification information, and for decrypting the encrypted content based on the key information.

20. (Currently Amended) An information processing method implemented by a decryption apparatus, the information processing method comprising:

storing an encrypted content ~~that identifies license identification information;~~

receiving grouped device identification information;

receiving ~~[[and]]~~ key information, in response to a transmission of device

identification information of the decryption apparatus and upon a determination that fewer

~~than a predetermined number of decryption apparatuses are associated with the grouped device identification information grouping and identifying a plurality of information devices that includes the decryption apparatus; transmitting the grouped device identification information and the license identification information;~~

~~receiving a license that corresponds to the license identification information and that identifies based on the grouped device identification information;~~

~~storing (a) the grouped device identification information and (b) the key information, which is commonly provided to the plurality of information devices, wherein the grouped device identification information and the key information are stored in an association together;~~

~~reading out, with a processor of the decryption apparatus, the license identification information from based on the encrypted content;~~

~~reading out, with the processor decryption apparatus, the grouped device identification information based on [[from]] the license corresponding to the license identification information;~~

~~reading out, with the processor decryption apparatus, the key information based on the grouped device identification information; and~~

~~decrypting the encrypted content with the processor decryption apparatus, based on the key information.~~

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) An information device, comprising:

~~a first memory configured to store an encrypted content that identifies and a license identification information;~~

an interface configured to receive grouped device identification information, and to receive key information, in response to a transmission of device identification information of the information device and upon a determination that fewer than a predetermined number of information devices are associated with ~~to transmit~~ the grouped device identification information ~~and the license identification information~~, and to receive a license ~~corresponding to the license identification information and identifying~~ based on the grouped device identification information, ~~the grouped device identification information grouping and identifying a plurality of information devices; a second memory configured to store the license; a third memory configured to store (a) the grouped device identification information and (b) the key information, which is commonly provided to the plurality of information devices, wherein the third memory is further configured to store the grouped device identification information and the key information in an association together; and~~

a ~~processor~~ processing unit configured to read out the license ~~identification information from~~ based on the encrypted content, read out the grouped device identification information ~~[[from]]~~ based on the license, read out the key information based on the grouped device identification information, and decrypt the encrypted content based on the key information.

24. (Currently Amended) An information server, comprising:

a processing unit configured to determine whether fewer than a predetermined number of information devices are associated with grouped device identification information;

~~a processor~~ an interface configured ~~to register one of a plurality of information devices according to a service registration request from the one of the plurality of information devices, to associate grouped device identification information and key information with the plurality of information devices, and to provide the grouped device identification information~~

~~and the key information in response to a receipt of device identification information of an information device and upon the processing unit determining that fewer than the predetermined number to the one of the plurality of information devices are associated with [[,]] the grouped device identification information, the grouped device identification information grouping and identifying the key information plurality of information devices, the key information being associated with decrypting an encrypted content[[;]], and an interface configured to receive a license request from the one of the plurality of information devices and to transmit a license to the one of the plurality of information devices, the license request including based on the grouped device identification information and license information associated with the encrypted content and corresponding to the license, the license identifying the grouped device identification information and being associated with identified by the encrypted content.~~

25. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for an information server, the method comprising:

~~registering one of a plurality of information devices according to a service registration request from the one of the plurality of information devices; associating, with the information server, grouped device identification information and key information with the plurality of information devices, the grouped device identification information grouping and identifying the plurality of information devices, the key information associated with an encrypted content;~~

~~determining, with the information server, whether fewer than a predetermined number of information devices are associated with grouped device identification information;~~

~~providing the grouped device identification information and the key information from the information server in response to a receipt of device identification information of an~~

information device and upon determining that fewer than the predetermined number of
information devices are associated with the grouped device identification information in the
determining, the grouped device identification information identifying the key information,
the key information decrypting an encrypted content ~~the one of the plurality of information~~
~~devices; receiving a license request from the one of the plurality of information devices, the~~
~~license request including the grouped device identification information and license~~
~~identification information associated with the encrypted content and corresponding to a~~
~~license; and~~

transmitting ~~[[the]]~~ a license ~~to the one of the plurality of information devices, the~~
~~license identifying based on~~ the grouped device identification information, the license
identifying the grouped device identification information and being ~~associated with~~ identified
by the encrypted content.